



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION
CERTIFIED MEMBER

Yale University

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
SECTION OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY



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State of Connecticut
Public Health Committee

Dear Committee Members:

I am a resident of Cheshire and also a speech-language pathologist. I am currently a Professor at the Yale University School of Medicine in the Department of Surgery, Section of Otolaryngology. I am writing you because you are a member of the Public Health Committee.

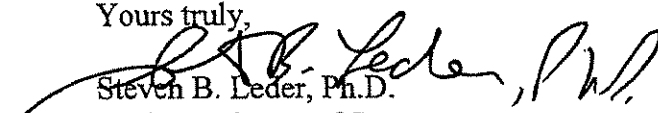
I am referring specifically to HB6265. The intent of this bill is to change the scope of practice of speech-language pathologists by removing the word "diagnose" from our scope of practice and replacing it with the word "evaluate". I as well as the Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association and our national organization the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association are opposed to this change in our scope of practice.

Speech-language pathologists are trained to evaluate, diagnose, and treat all aspects of speech, language, voice, and swallowing disorders. We do not make a medical diagnosis but rather limit our diagnoses to our areas of expertise.

Use of the word "diagnose" by speech-language pathologists does not infringe upon any other profession, specifically medical doctors. Physicians are not trained to evaluate, diagnose, or treat speech-language disorders; only speech-language pathologists are. It is imperative that the word "diagnose" remain in scope of practice as defined in the speech-language pathology licensure law as stated in Chapter 399 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The act under consideration (Section 1. Section 20-408 of the general statutes) that proposes to change the word "diagnose" to "evaluate" **MUST NOT BE PASSED.**

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,


Steven B. Leder, Ph.D.
Professor, Dept. of Surgery
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